

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 13, and 24 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 6. Claims 14-23 have been cancelled by this reply without prejudice or disclaimer.

Objections to Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the originally filed Figure 6. Applicant hereby submits a replacement drawing sheet for Figure 6 to include the names associated with the reference characters as found in paragraphs [0034] – [0036] of the specification. No new subject matter has been added by the way of the replacement of the drawing sheet. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Amended Drawings

Applicant hereby submits a replacement drawing sheet for Figure 1, and asks that the replacement drawing sheet be accepted by the Examiner. The drawing has been modified to conform to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84 and to clarify the figure. No new subject matter has been added by way of the amendments included in the replacement of the drawing sheet.

Objections to Claims

Claims 1-24 have been objected to by the Examiner for being enumerated as c1 to c24 instead of as numbers. Claims 1-24 have been amended to be enumerated with only numbers. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant requests that the Examiner replace Figures 1 and 6 as originally filed with the enclosed replacement sheet of drawings of Figures 1 and 6. In Figure 1, some of the reference numbers have been removed to conform to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. Furthermore, the sub-boxes of Portal Services, Communication Services, and Web, Application and Integration Services, have been removed in order to clarify the figure. In Figure 6, names for the reference numbers 160, 162, 156, and 154 were added to clarify the figure. The Applicant asserts that no new subject matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 10-12, 14-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Publication 2003/0055917 (“Boreham”). Claims 14-23 have been cancelled by this reply. Thus, the rejection is now moot with respect to the cancelled claims. Further, independent claims 1, 6, and 24 have been amended to clarify the invention. Specifically, independent claims 1, 6, and 24 clarify that the invention uses a common interface (*i.e.*, a virtual attribute service (VAS)) operatively connected to one or more virtual attribute service providers (VASPs), where the VAS forwards requests for attributes to the appropriate VASPs and the appropriate VASP services the request and returns the requested attributes to the VAS. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0033]-[0036] of the specification. Dependent claims 3-5, and 8-12 have been amended to use the terminology of amended independent claims 1 and 6, respectively. Applicant respectfully asserts that no new subject matter has been added by these amendments. To the extent this rejection applies to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a directory server that includes a client for sending a request for an attribute value associated with an entry in the directory server to a virtual attribute service, a plurality of virtual attribute service providers operatively connected to the virtual attribute service, wherein at least of the plurality of virtual service attribute providers comprises functionality to service the request and return the result to the virtual attribute service, and the virtual attribute service configured to forward the request to the one of the plurality of virtual attribute service providers and configured to return the attribute value to the client.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. The Applicant respectfully asserts that Boreham does not teach or suggest a virtual attribute service as recited in the claims. Specifically, Boreham fails to teach a single point of entry (*i.e.*, a virtual attribute service) that includes functionality to forward the request to the appropriate virtual attribute service provider (*e.g.*, a roles service, a class of service, etc.). Rather, Boreham merely teaches sending a request for an attribute from a client (via a Directory User Agent (DUA)) directly to the directory server. The request is received and subsequently serviced by the Directory Server Agent (See Boreham, paragraph [0005]). Besides

portion of paragraph [0005] discussing the DUA and the DSA, which is summarized in the proceeding sentences, there are no other details about how the DUA and DSA operate.

The Applicant respectfully asserts that a mere mention of DUA and DSA without any other discussion is not sufficient to meet the standards required to show anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as set forth in M.P.E.P. §2131. In particular, the mere mention of the DUA and DSA, without any particular specificity, fails to meet the test for anticipation set forth in *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.* which requires that “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ...claim.” (*Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989)). In view of the above, it is clear that Boreham does not include enough detail to support the rejection of amended independent claim 1. Further, amended independent claims 6 and 24 include patentable limitations that are similar to independent claim 1. Thus, Boreham may not be used to support a rejection of amended independent claims 6 and 24. In addition, the Boreham may not be used to support a rejection of claims dependent on amended independent claims 1 or 6. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boreham in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6, 249,883 (“Cassidy”). Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), subject matter developed by another person which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. (*See* 35 U.S.C. § 103(c)). Because Boreham and the present invention have both been assigned to Sun Microsystems, Boreham may not be used to support this rejection in view of 35 U.S.C. §103(c). Copies of documents showing the recordation of the assignment of each application to Sun Microsystems are enclosed.

Further, Cassidy does not teach or suggest the invention recited in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that Cassidy is analogous art, and thus, by the Examiner’s own admission, Cassidy does not teach a virtual attribute service or virtual attribute service

providers as recited in the claims. In view of the above, Boreham and Cassidy do not support the rejection of claim 8. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested

Claim 9 is rejected to under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boreham in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0049761 ("Trevor"). As shown above, Boreham may not be used to support this rejection in view of 35 U.S.C. §103(c).

Further, Trevor does not teach or suggest the invention recited in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner has indicated that Trevor is analogous art and, thus, by the Examiner's own admission, Trevor does not teach a virtual attribute service or virtual attribute service providers as recited in the claims. In view of the above, Boreham and Trevor do not support the rejection of claim 8. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested

Claim 13 is rejected to under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boreham in view of Cassidy and Trevor. As shown above, Boreham may not be used to support this rejection in view of 35 U.S.C. §103(c). Further, as shown above, neither Cassidy nor Trevor, whether considered together or separately, teach the invention as recited in the claims. In view of the above, Boreham, Cassidy, and Trevor do not support the rejection of claim 13. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

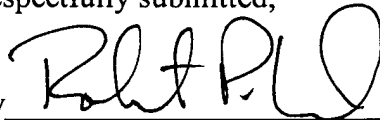
Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 13220/006001).

Dated:

04/13/2005

Respectfully submitted,

By



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Attachments (Copies of recordation of assignment documents)
Two replacement sheets